

<http://www.bpnews.net/BPnews.asp?ID=34323>

The Christian community in Iraq has been declining numerically for years because of waves of persecution, but the exodus has increased in recent weeks following the murder of 51 Catholics and two priests by a terrorist group. On Dec. 14, the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom** called on the United States to “redouble its efforts” in helping protect Iraq's persecuted Christian community.